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UNFINISHED BUSINESS

TO THE REVIEW:

Roger Morris presents a distorted and incomplete picture of *The San Diego Union's* Mexico coverage. He writes that the *Union* ran a major investigative series on police corruption in Mexico "beginning in January 1981." In fact, the police corruption series began in February 1979. Further, Morris writes that the indictment of former security chief of Mexico Miguel Nazar Haro (whom Morris incorrectly labels a high-ranking police official) was a "promising story." But, he adds, "the full facts were never to be printed . . . and the *Union's* stories on the subject abruptly ceased," suggesting that we were scared off the story.

But it was the *Union* that first reported Nazar Haro's participation in a multimillion-dollar car-theft ring and that top U.S. officials were attempting to block Nazar Haro's prosecution because he was the CIA's "most important source in Mexico and Central America."

It was the *Union* that stood fast in support of U.S. Attorney William H. Kennedy in his drive to bring Nazar Haro to justice for the hundreds of cars stolen off lots in California. And it was the *Union* that berated the Justice Department for firing Kennedy at the request of the CIA and for the department's lackadaisical efforts to recover the stolen cars from Mexican officialdom.

Finally, it was the *Union* that kept pressing until Nazar Haro was indicted, jailed, and then lost in Mexico after jumping his bail.

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Roger Morris replies: *Mr. Warren and I agree, as I wrote, that the Union certainly deserves credit for breaking and developing the Haro story, the date of which was given me (incorrectly) by the paper's own morgue. Alas, my point remains: After Haro's flight, there was no further inquiry into the CIA-Haro connection, the Justice Department's apparent cover-up, how or why the CIA's "most important source" in Mexico was also implicated as a major car thief, how Haro raised his bail, etcetera — all questions the Union, despite its previous fine coverage, continues to leave unanswered.*

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